

Message Text

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ACTION IO-03

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LIMDIS

PASS LABOR FOR SEGALL, PERSONS AND QUACKENBUSH

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ILO AORG (MCDONALD, JOHN W. JR.)

SUBJECT: ILO: APPOINTMENT OF AMERICAN DEPUTY DIRECTOR GENERAL

REF: A) GENEVA 7115; B) STATE 257822

1. LAB ATT SAW FORTIN EVENING OF NOVEMBER 25 (REF A) AND RAISED SUBSTANCE PARA ONE REF B BY ASKING WHAT SCENARIO BLANCHARD WOULD USE IN APPOINTING AMERICAN DDG, WHOM US GOVERNMENT UNDERSTOOD WOULD BE THE SENIOR OF THE THREE DDGS AND BLANCHARD'S FIRST DEPUTY. FORTIN QUICKLY REPLIED THAT THE THREE DDG'S WOULD BE EQUAL IN EVERY WAY AND THAT BLANCHARD FOR POLITICAL REASONS HAD NEVER INTENDED TO APPOINT SENIOR DDG. IN PRIVATE CONVERSATIONS DURING LAST GOVERNING BODY SESSION, SOVIETS HAD OBJECTED STRONGLY AND LOUDLY BECAUSE THEY WOULD NOT HAVE DDG LEVEL POSITION AND THAT BLANCHARD HAD COUNTERED BY SAYING THAT SIZE OF AMERICAN CONTRIBUTION MERITED APPOINTMENT OF AMERICAN AND THAT OTHER TWO DDG SLOTS HAD TO GO TO WORKER REPRESENTATIVE (BOLIN) AND REPRESENTATIVE OF LDC (NOT YET CHOSEN). FORTIN SUGGESTED SOVIETS WOULD HAVE STRONGER BASIS FOR PROTEST IF US DDG WERE GIVEN SENIOR STATUS.

2. LAB ATT SAID US UNDERSTOOD THAT BLANCHARD HAD MADE COMMITMENT BEFORE BECOMING DG TO APPOINT AMERICAN AS SENIOR DEPUTY AND POINTED OUT ADVANTAGE TO USG WITH CONGRESS AND AFL/CIO IN HAVING
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"OUR MAN" IN NUMBER 2 SLOT AT ILO. FORTIN SAID HE WAS UNAWARE

OF SUCH COMMITMENT. HE SAID BLANCHARD TOLD MCDONALD HE WOULD NOT BE GIVEN SPECIAL STATUS WHEN MCDONALD RAISED QUESTION OF SENIORITY IN SEPTEMBER INTERVIEW IN GENEVA, AND THAT DG HAD TAKEN SAME POSITION IN WASHINGTON IN OCTOBER. FORTIN SAID THAT OFFICIAL NOTIFICATION (AND PRESUMABLY CONTRACT REFERRED TO PARA 3 REF B) ALSO DID NOT SPECIFY SMALL PAY DIFFERENTIAL WHICH WOULD DISTINGUISH UNDER ILO PAY SYSTEM PRINCIPAL DDG FROM OTHER TWO. BOTH MCDONALD AND BOLIN WILL BE APPOINTED DECEMBER 16 AND THERE WOULD BE NO QUESTION OF SENIORITY. FORTIN REITERATED THAT THE THREE DDGS WOULD BE EQUAL AND SAID THAT THEY WOULD ACT FOR DG ON ROTATIONAL BASIS ON FEW OCCASIONS WHEN BLANCHARD NOT AVAILABLE. FORTIN ADMITTED INTERREGNUM MIGHT BE DIFFICULT IF BLANCHARD WERE TO DIE OR BECOME SERIOUSLY ILL. HE SAID BLANCHARD PREFERRED TO HAVE PRINCIPAL DEPUTY AND THIS WAS POSSIBILITY FOR FUTURE BUT NOW NOW. FORTIN SPECULATED THAT IF LATER ON BLANCHARD WERE TO APPOINT A PRINCIPAL DEPUTY, HE WOULD PROBABLY MAKE HIS CHOICE ON BASIS OF COMPETITION BETWEEN THE THREE DDGS.

3. COMMENT: SPEED AND SURENESS OF FORTIN'S RESPONSE SUGGEST HE AND BLANCHARD HAD ANTICIPATED US QUERY ON SENIOR DDG STATUS FOR MCDONALD. FORTIN OF COURSE NOT EXPLICIT BUT GAVE IMPRESSION THAT BLANCHARD GAMBLING US WILL BE SATISFIED WITH MCDONALD APPOINTMENT AND NOT GO TO MAT ON ISSUE OF SENIORITY, WHICH MIGHT GIVE SOVIETS LEVERAGE THEY DO NOT HAVE NOT OR TRIGGER DEBATE IN GOVERNING BODY. ABRAMS

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